

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Venezuela

REPORT NO.

25X1A

SUBJECT Labor Situation in the State of Zulia

DATE DISTR. 28 July 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO.

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE:

1. During the month of June and the first week of July 1953 there were no significant developments in the labor situation in the State of Zulia, Venezuela. On the eve of the labor contract negotiations with the oil companies, the picture is confusing. Irresponsible newspaper reporting contributes to the general confusion but does not enlighten labor.
2. The Comite Unificado still issues optimistic press releases and is making an attempt to gain solid support among the rank and file of petroleum labor. Its numerical strength is still substantial, but its lack of government backing, an absolute necessity in the case of the current negotiations, gives observers the impression that it is merely going through the motions. The Independent faction, which is backed by the government, has made little progress in lining up substantial numerical support in the State of Zulia.
3. The rank and file of petroleum labor still wants greater monetary and social benefits from the new contract but does not care who sponsors the benefits.

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